

# What Can I Do With a Major in...

# Behavioral and Social Gerontology?

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The Behavioral and Social Gerontology major consists of a liberal arts curriculum with a core study of gerontology courses. There is a demand for specialists within elderly care, and GMC is preparing students to fill this niche in the social/mental health field. Gerontology addresses the intellectual, social and emotional needs of older people. Studies include: biology of aging, death and dying, theories of counseling, social psychology of aging, ethical issues, and therapeutic activities. Graduates are employed in research, higher education, retirement communities, community health education, therapy, recreational therapy and case management.

### Skills/Competencies Associated with Gerontology Majors:

- Enjoys working with and researching the elderly
- Integrity and perseverance
- Ability to make sound judgments and decisions
- Sensitivity, empathy, patience
- Good communication skills
- Desire to help people and make a difference in making a better life for others

### Related Occupations:

Agency Director	International Social Worker
Aging/Gerontology Specialist	Market Research Analyst
Assistant Director of Agency	Marriage Counselor
Behavior Specialist	Medical Social Counselor
Case Worker	Mental Health Worker
Child Welfare Worker	Mobile Therapist
Clinical Social Worker	Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteer
Consultant	Policy & Planning Specialist
Deputy Director	Policy Advocate
Developmental Disabilities	Policy Analyst
Economists	Probation Officer
Educator	Program Manager
Employee Assistance Counselor	Psychiatric Social Worker
Employment/Occupational Social Worker	Research Analyst
Faith-based Agency Worker	Residential Counselor
Family Services Social Worker	School Counselor
Group Home Director	School Social Worker
Group Worker	Substance Abuse Counselor
Health Care Specialist	Supervisor
Health Care Worker	Statisticians
Historian	Technical Writer
Hospital Social Worker	Therapeutic Staff Service Worker
Intake Counselor	Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

\*This is only a partial list and not meant to limit you. Come to Career Services to explore your options further.

### **Strategies:**

- Volunteer for social service organization
- Fundraise for social agency or causes
- Obtain an internship
- Strengthen computer and communication skills
- Read journals on the elderly
- Volunteer for charitable organizations

### **Resources:**

College Central Network  
[www.collegecentral.com/gmc](http://www.collegecentral.com/gmc)

Gerontological Society of America  
[www.geron.org](http://www.geron.org)

Geriatric Social Work Initiative  
[www.gswi.org](http://www.gswi.org)

International Association of Gerontology  
[www.iagg.info](http://www.iagg.info)

Alliance for Aging Research  
[www.agingresearch.org](http://www.agingresearch.org)

National Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging  
[www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org)

Social Work JobBank  
[www.socialworkjobbank.com](http://www.socialworkjobbank.com)

The New Social Worker Magazine  
[www.socialworker.com](http://www.socialworker.com)

National Association of Social Workers  
[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

Occupational Outlook Handbook  
[www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco)

National Academy on an Aging Society  
[www.agingociety.org](http://www.agingociety.org)

Association for Gerontology in Higher Edu.  
[www.aghe.org](http://www.aghe.org)

Administration on Aging  
[www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)

American Assoc. of Homes & Services for Aging  
[www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org)

Nation Council on Aging  
[www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org)

Non Profit Times  
[www.nptimes.com](http://www.nptimes.com)

Idealist  
[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org)

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**Gwynedd-Mercy College**  
**Career Services**  
215-646-7300, ext: 230  
[careerservices@gmc.edu](mailto:careerservices@gmc.edu)  
[www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices](http://www.gmc.edu/students/careerservices)